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A FRONT FOR NATIONALIZED EDUCATION

By FELIX WITTMER

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS COMMISSION for the Public Schools has "arrived" as a great, ubiquitous organization which is billed as a valuable aid in saving our public school system, and which therefore demands support of well-meaning citizens. Few people are aware of its origin and philosophy and the make-up of its promoters. Here are some facts for parents and civic leaders.

About six years ago, Dr. James P. Conant, one-time President of Harvard, and Professor Paul R. Mort, of Columbia Teachers College, conceived the idea of the National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools. Conant is the ancient New Deal minion and protagonist of world government schemes; Mort received his training and has taught since 1929 at Columbia Teachers College. He has served in various capacities with the National Education Association.

The *Highlights Report* of NCCPS, printed in 1951 by *Time, Inc.,* while featuring the pictures of the 35 Commission members, does not highlight Conant and Mort; their established preferences for such left wing causes as federal aid to education and benevolent understanding for the Soviet Union are kept in the background. After all, successful business executives, whose corporations represent hundreds of millions of dollars, but who are not necessarily acquainted with the immutable laws of economics, represent the Commission.

Business Week, May 12, 1951, describes as the Commission's chief aims an addition by 1960 of 520,000 new classrooms, 50% more than we now have, and higher teachers' salaries. Where is the money to come from? Says *Business Week,* "the Commission thinks state and federal aid will eventually be needed."

In the pattern of organizations which tend to make our once free education dependent on the central government, NCCPS plays a formidable role. The National Education Association itself, with its 29 departments, 24 commissions and committees, 14 headquarters divisions and one centralized council, has long realized that it needs the cooperation of semi-official organizations, like the National Congress of Parent-Teacher Associations, and of independent groups, like the American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, Public Education Association and National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools. While a graphic description would place these latter associations in the outer orbit of NEA, they are actually of much greater importance than mere satellites. Their apparent independence gives weight to collaboration with NEA

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departments like the American Association of School Administrators, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Association of Secondary-School Principals and National Council for the Social Studies.

The pamphlet *Schools Are What We Make Them,* published by Bell & Howell Company, Chicago, Illinois, has been distributed by NCCPS. The title page carried the message: "From the National Commission for the Public Schools . . ." On page 24, suggestively illustrated by a picture of the national Capitol, there is the following paragraph:

> "Changes in federal legislation sometimes are urgently needed. Although state and national groups are likely to propose such changes, citizens' groups in thousands of communities must support them. An example of how federal legislation depends on public support is the quarter-century drive which has been required to obtain general federal financial aid for public education."

WHILE THE NCCPS is apparently to function as a protector of the NEA lobby in its drive for federal aid, it is evidently also meant to confuse, intimidate and destroy the grass roots opposition to wide-spread socialistic education. Heavily subsidized by such traditional sponsors of left wing projects as the Carnegie Corporation (which granted the Commission $400,000 in two years), the Rockefeller General Education Board and Sloan Foundation — NCCPS, through its contacts with the Advertising Board, might easily be fancied to represent the people's grass roots movement, which of course it doesn't.

During 1950, for instance, "a total of 10,257 newspaper advertisements appeared in dailies and weeklies in every state of the nation." Thirty full-page advertisements, 5,000 outdoor posters, 90,000 ad cards in buses, subways and street cars, hundreds of spot announcements on radio and television networks, milk bottle tops, auto tags and postage meters hit the American public in 1950 alone. The advertising firm of New Dealers Benton and Bowles prepared the ads.

A 56-page pamphlet, *How Can Citizens Help Their Schools?* was issued by NCCPS in 1953. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, with its 38,000 units and 7,200,000 members, which has long been exposed to NEA's statist concept of remaking our society, is prominently described. The Public Education Association of New York City, wholeheartedly endorsed by the left wing Americans for Democratic Action and of course NCCPS's co-originator, Professor Paul R. Mort, is given a big play in this NCCPS pamphlet.

Incidentally, Roy E. Larsen, the chairman of NCCPS, in 1951 addressed a PEA dinner meeting at the Waldorf at which the PEA bulletin, *The Fight For — and Against — Good Schools,* was made available for the distinguished guests. This bulletin represents an unreasonable, unkind and partisan attack on some of our finest representatives of the Constitutionalist grass roots movement, such as the patriotic citizens of Scarsdale and Pasadena, and the *Educational Reviewer.* It stooped to calling the *Educational Reviewer* a "profiteer in hysteria."

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Actually this thoughtful quarterly for the most part filled with articles and reviews by established college professors, had never more than a thousand subscribers and after a few years of struggle, folded for lack of funds. Had NCCPS's financial sponsors, the Carnegie Corporation or the Rockefeller Foundation, given *The Educational Reviewer* one-tenth the amount they granted to NCCPS, this worthy enterprise would have been continued. So much regarding "profiteering." The annual PEA Report, handed out at said dinner meeting, discloses that the "coordinating committee" of New York's Public Education Association comprises such left wing outfits as Americans for Democratic Action, Child Study Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the New York City League of Women Voters.

SIGNIFICANTLY, David Hulburd, who wrote the prejudiced book, *This Happened in Pasadena,* has been a writer with *Time* magazine for some twenty years. Roy E. Larsen, chairman of NCCPS, is President of *Time, Inc.* Dr. James P. Conant, co-originator of the Commission (and quondam chairman of NEA's Educational Policies Commission), wrote a glowing review of the Hulburd book in the *New York Times Book Review* of April 29, 1951.

By 1953, it had become evident that NCCPS would use the 2,300 local organizations it had set up within five years to eradicate those who opposed socialistic trends in our education. Pages 14 and 15 of the 1953 Anniversary Yearbook reproduce such headlines as: "Right Wing Group Hit by U.M.W.;" "School Probes Hit as Threat to Free Education," and "Public Alerted to Halt Smear Upon Schools." Palmer Hoyt, publisher of the left wing *Denver Post* and Clarence Faust, President of the Fund for the Advancement of Education of the Ford Foundation, were featured at the 1953 annual dinner in Denver.

A quick look at the list of officers and national sponsors of the NCCPS leaves no doubt whatever about the pronouncedly left wing character of the organization. Both Roy E. Larsen, the chairman, and James F. Brownlee, the vice-chairman, have been prominently associated with Paul Gray Hoffman's Committee for Economic Development, a group of businessmen afflicted with the Keynesian, state-interventionist (viz. socialistic) virus. During World War II, Brownlee was Deputy OPA Administrator. Leo Perlis, NCCPS Secretary, is a national CIO officer. Here are nine typical NCCPS members, featured in the Commission's "Highlights Report."

1. *Samuel C. Gale,* director of Foreign Policy Association, which has published much pro-Soviet material, and whose research director, Vera Micheles Dean, has frequently shown sympathy for the Kremlin's line.
2. *Lester B. Granger,* Executive director of the National Urban League.
3. *Robert Heller,* prominent in Paul Hoffman's CED and the (Fabian socialist) National Planning Association, a veteran national sponsor of the bureaucratic causes.
4. *Palmer Hoyt,* once director of Elmer Davis's Communist-infiltrated OWI, publisher of the "liberal" *Denver Post.*

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5. *Mrs. Samuel A. Lewisohn,* of the Public Education Association, where she is associated with such radicals as Mrs. Joseph P. Lash and Dean Ernest O. Melby, of N.Y.U.

6. *Mrs. Eugene Meyer,* wife of the owner of the *Washington Post-Times Herald,* whose line usually coincides with that of Americans for Democratic Action.

7. *Victor G. Reuther,* Director, Department of Education, United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers, CIO. One-time fervent pilgrim to Moscow, the heart of the socialist fatherland, Mr. Reuther, like his brother Walter, now pursues the collectivist dream along evolutionary lines.

8. *Beardsley Ruml,* originator of the "pay-as-you-go" income tax plan. A director of Macy's, Muzak, Bulova Watch Co., and other prosperous companies, Mr. Ruml has been associated with the Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations — which have been generous to NCCPS.

9. *Raymond Rubicam,* founder and retired head of Young and Rubicam, Inc., and a trustee of Paul Hoffman's state interventionist Committee for Economic Development.

For the record, but also for the sake of brevity, we might here merely enumerate other National Commission members, honored in New-Fair Deal circles. They include Mrs. Barry Bingham; Hodding Carter; Edward R. Eastman; George Gallup; Mrs. Bruce Gould; Fred K. Hoehler; Robert Littell; Stanley Marcus; James G. K. McClure; Neil H. McElroy; George Houk Mead; Dr. Karl A. Menninger; O. H. Roberts, Jr.; Louis B. Seltzer; Richard Joyce Smith; Frank Stanton; Charles Allen Thomas; Henry Toy; Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr.; and P. Bernard Young, Jr.

Other illustrious names have decorated NCCPS publications. Dwight David Eisenhower and Bernard Baruch have expressed pleasant generalities in letters to the NCCPS. Frank W. Abrams has addressed the organization. Dr. Willard E. Goslin, of Pasadena notoriety, figures on the advisory panel of NCCPS.

On February 17, 1953, Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer, of NCCPS, speaking before the American Association of School Administrators, a department of the NEA, in Atlantic City, stated that McCarthy, Jenner and Velde do not have the moral and intellectual qualifications to conduct Congressional investigations. She especially questioned McCarthy's "honesty, his moral integrity, and therefore his right to retain his seat in the Senate."

In a recent *Collier's* article praised by some conservatives, NCCPS was mentioned as if it represented the grass roots movement. Such a view is, of course, grossly erroneous. NCCPS is particularly dangerous because to the average citizen it still looks middle-of-the-road while in reality it does spade work for the grave-diggers of freedom and self-reliance.

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HUMAN EVENTS

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DEC 1954

Not Merely Gossip: The rather exaggerated praise of Mendes-France in the Nation's Capital this past week arose principally from a desire to help him stay in power in the French Assembly. Actually, our foreign policy directors did not encourage the French Premier's visit and do not trust him. But, "worse might follow," if he fell. Hence, the outpouring of favorable official comment on the Franco-American talks here and the inevitable, admiring editorials, which followed in the accommodating newspapers, are really designed to strengthen the parliamentary position of Mendes-France. Ratification by the French Assembly of the German agreement is held to be of primary importance.

● The annual Washington meeting of the Roman Catholic hierarchy last week ended with a public statement exclusively of spiritual and theological content. However, it is believed that many of the prelates privately discussed the looming U.S. acceptance of Russia's latest propaganda missile — "co-existence." It is rumored that a number of them sharply disapproved of "co-existence" and that their sentiments were privately conveyed to the White House.

● The GOP conservatives inflicted a striking defeat on the "liberal" White House Palace Guard, during the past few days. Their leader, Senator Knowland, in blunt terms publicly said he had no intention of retiring as leader of the Republicans in the Senate. Then, he went to see the President and — just as bluntly — told General Eisenhower the same thing. That put an end to the press cabal (started by the usual "liberal" and pro-Democratic New Deal columnists and commentators) which has been going on here for several weeks and which was aimed at ousting Knowland. The reasons why the California Senator could speak so forthrightly were: (1) he has the complete confidence of all save a half-dozen GOP Senators; and (2) he enjoys a measure of cooperation with the Democratic Leader, Senator Lyndon Johnson. Knowland's record in the past year has won him warm support in the upper House.

The McCarthy Defense: It is privately conceded that the most brilliant and comprehensive defense of Senator McCarthy in the censure hearing was the speech of Senator Herman Welker (R., Idaho). (*Congressional Record*, November 17 and 18). Foes of the Wisconsin legislator are dismayed by the array of legal and factual knowledge which Welker brought to bear on the McCarthy case.

Concerning the charge of the Watkins Committee that McCarthy's criticism of General Zwicker was conduct "unbecoming a Senator," Welker observed: (1) under the Constitution the Senate can punish a Senator *only for disorderly behavior.* Such behavior has been interpreted by eminent lawyers and the Congress itself to mean obstructing legislation either by refusing to obey established rules or interrupting the legislative process by acts of violence; (2) a Senator's *criticism* of a witness — and such was the real nature of what McCarthy said to Zwicker — could not possibly be construed as disorderly behavior.

Actually, in the entire history of the Senate, that body has never even attempted to punish a Senator for words spoken either on the floor or in committees. Members from time to time have done things which certainly constituted conduct "unbecoming a Senator" but the Senate never punished such acts. Welker cited a recent case where one Senator bodily threw two other Senators — one after the other — out of a broadcasting studio on Capitol Hill. The Idaho man also reminded the Senate that, although

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it happened infrequently, members had appeared on the floor of the Senate intoxicated — in full view of the galleries — and had been led off the floor. Yet no one proposed trying them for conduct "unbecoming a Senator."

Finally, in criticizing Zwicker, McCarthy did not say — as the left wing press in some cases reported — "You [Zwicker] are unfit to wear the uniform of a General." McCarthy said: "Any man who has been given the honor of being promoted to a General and who says 'I will protect another General who protected Communists' is unfit to wear *that* uniform, General." McCarthy's words addressed to Zwicker were certainly no more severe than some used by other members either on the floor or in committees. In these latter cases, the Senate took no action because it sought to preserve the vital principle of allowing a Senator complete freedom of speech where public issues were involved.

Welker cited the case of the elder Senator LaFollette who, on the floor, referred to another Senator "as by nature a subservient, cringing creature . . . God Almighty has given him a hump on his back [that Senator had one] . . . crouching, cringing, un-American and unmanly." Senator Welker recalled some of the gems of verbal castigation employed by the late Senator Tobey. Referring to one witness before a committee, Tobey shouted, "Throw that damn scum out of here." Questioning the head of the State Police of New York (a position as important as that of General Zwicker), Tobey said: "If I were Governor of this State I would give you just five minutes to get out or I would kick you out." Welker cited other examples where Senators had flayed witnesses, although the Senate never dreamed of censuring the Senators.

Regarding the second charge of the Watkins Committee — that Senator McCarthy refused to accept an invitation to appear before a Senate Committee (the Gillette Committee) — Welker observed: (1) Never before in the history of the Senate has refusal to accept an invitation to appear before a committee been made the basis of a censure resolution; (2) there have been cases, for instance, that of the elder Senator LaFollette who had refused point blank to accept such an invitation and had even said that he would not obey a subpoena, but the Senate never attempted to punish LaFollette for his refusal.

Welker concludes that censure is asked for McCarthy not because there is any legal ground for censuring him, but because he must be punished as a result of his indomitable opposition to Communism and Communists, and to high government officials who shield both.

Another Homing Pigeon? Not long ago President Eisenhower expressed the opinion that Moscow still has not shown any real evidence of seriousness about ending the "cold war." Now Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia has challenged the President's conclusion; he rose to the defense of Russia claiming that Moscow is sincere about peaceful co-existence and that we should cooperate. Observers who have long been skeptical about Tito say that it looks like another "calculated risk" may be about to explode in our faces.

When Tito announced his break with Stalin after World War II, seasoned observers never had any doubts that it was "staged" and that Tito's job was to collect from the free world (that is the U.S.) as much economic booty as possible; that Stalin — if Tito's break was genuine — could have easily crushed him. Under Truman and Acheson, however, we poured valuable aid into Yugoslavia, including many materials useful to a war machine.

If Tito is now edging toward the "jump back," it may be very serious business. The State Chambers of Commerce reported some figures last summer that may well be pondered. It was pointed out that, although our European Allies were spending on the average only from 17% to 33% of their government budgets on defense, while 66% of our budget went for defense, Tito's Yugoslavia was out-stripping everyone. The Chambers showed statistically that in the three years 1952, 1953 and 1954 an average

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of 80% of the Yugoslavian budget was allocated to defense. Is Tito frantically arming (giving his people only the barest necessities) to oppose Russia, or is he getting ready to strike a formidable blow for his Moscow friends? Tito's latest apology for Russia has given our State Department a very queasy feeling, it is reported. If Tito is really a homing pigeon it will be — say observers — only another crushing example of how foolishly risks were calculated under Truman and Acheson.

The UN Record: A number of developments about the United Nations in the past two months deserve consideration. Taken together they show convincingly that the purpose of this foreign-controlled organization is to undermine American independence, and that the UN works unflaggingly around the clock to that end.

(1)The International Court of Justice at the Hague (UN's legal arm) ruled that the eleven American citizens, fired from the UN after their exposure by a New York Grand Jury and a U.S. Senate Committee, must be given an indemnity of $187,000. Ten of the eleven, when questioned, refused to tell whether they were Communists and the eleventh admitted she was once a member of the Communist Party, thereupon bursting into a eulogy of Communism. The UN Assembly voted that the eleven should receive the $187,000 indemnity for losing their jobs. If it is paid, our Treasury will provide 35% of the total funds. Experts pointed out that, if we submit to this judgment, our government *will be deprived of authority over its own citizens.* We will recognize that UN has powers superior to that of our government and the Constitution.

(2) Left-winger Luther Evans, former Librarian of Congress and now Director of UNESCO, provoked sharp criticism from Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. representative to the UN, for failing to dismiss eight U.S. citizens who received adverse loyalty reports. Our sources say they are still there.

(3) Another move — recently disclosed — sounds a warning about UN. The Economic and Social Council of the UN has established a permanent Advisory Commission on Commodity Trade. The mission of this body is to set up international cartels fixing prices and allocating markets for key agricultural and mineral products — a system quite contrary to American free enterprise. Investigator Patrick Oliver reports that the commodity planners are hard at work on a rubber cartelization program. British and other rubber producing areas in the Far East have long been disturbed by our discovery of synthetic rubber which can be produced more cheaply than the natural product. The game is to get the U.S. to limit its production of synthetic rubber, then fix its price high enough so that natural rubber can compete with it in our domestic market. If we can be made more dependent on natural rubber produced thousands of miles from our doors we will be more dependent on world politics and hence eventually on a "world government."

(4) Most alarming of all, however, is a report from Dr. R. J. C. Dorsey. legal student of UN, that behind the scenes UN radicals are preparing a "Code Of Offense Against The Peace And Security Of Mankind." The Code will include the salient principles of the Genocide Convention which would make it a crime for any American to criticize any foreign people or any foreign ruler. But, according to Dr. Dorsey, it goes far beyond the Genocide Convention for inherent viciousness. The Code declares offenses against the peace and security of mankind to be crimes under international law for which the responsible individuals shall be punishable: but it does not define a single offense. That will undoubtedly come later through UN action after we have ratified the Code. It establishes a tribunal to rule on the punishment of crimes (as yet undefined) and to determine the punishment itself.

Revolution in Reverse: At the recent United Steelworkers convention, David McDonald made the very interesting observation that not only do management and ownership, recognize the need — and

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indeed desirability — of dealing with organized labor fairly, but labor recognizes its obligation to the owners of business. This is a far cry from class warfare.

In another field something similar seems to have been taking place. We refer to Mexico's apparent change of heart relative to foreign investors. This is suggested by an inconspicuous news item telling of the 21.2 per cent rate increase the Mexican authorities have granted the foreign-owned Mexican Light and Power Co. That Canadian-domiciled and American-managed utility, the largest company in Mexico, for decades has been squeezed between rising costs and inadequate authorized rates to consumers. The rising costs have been due to worldwide and especially Mexican currency inflation and to the demands of Mexican labor organizations backed by sympathetic public and official opinion. For there is no readier whipping boy in any country than the local utility; and in Latin America none, above all, than a utility owned abroad.

"Mexlight" received a small interim rate increase in 1953. The increase of 1954, effective October 1, is designed to take care of the hardships caused the company by the currency devaluation of last April; and this rise, too, is regarded as "interim." After further study the Mexican Government promises Mexlight and other public utilities additional increases. Significantly, Mexican officials say they realize that only by making foreign investment in Mexico profitable can private foreign capital be induced to enter the country, whose prospective growth of population will require doubling the present power resources. While it may seem hard to believe, the Ruiz Cortines administration gives evidence of sincerity in this recognition and, if Mexico's consuming public can be similarly persuaded, the climate there for foreign investment will have undergone a quiet revolution for the first time since the oil nationalizations of 1938.

Education Front: Revolt against "liberalism" in the Ivy League Circuit increases. On November 3, we reported on activities of the Harvard Conservative League. Meanwhile, the Conservative Society of the Yale Law School sends us some admirable brochures including one by Russell Kirk — see last week's book review of Kirk's latest work, *A Program for Conservatives* (Regnery). This week we should note academic rebellion in Princeton. It seems that the *Daily Princetonian* on November 10, had suggested that "unfortunately" conservatism dictated the personal views of the average student at that institution.

Two undergraduates — Spencer MacCallum '55 and Roger Barron '55 — protested in the "Letters to the editor" column on November 15, denying the *Princetonian's* assertion. "Any definition of conservatism," they say, "is mistaken which includes those who are 'middle-of-the-road' or only 'slightly' left, for the so-called 'middle-of-the-road' of today is in fact just more moderate 'liberalism.' What are the marks of a true Conservative? We think they are avowal of the principles of personal liberty, limited government, and American sovereignty. The average Princeton undergraduate is 'liberal' because he concurs with those who advocate the increasing extension of government regulation over private lives and property, and, specifically in regard to the proposed Bricker Amendment, the supremacy of international treaty over the American Constitution as a step toward world government."

And Messrs. McCallum and Barron conclude: "We agree with you that opposition to the prevailing point of view may make for a 'healthier state' on campus. But this opposition must come from the true Conservatives. 'Liberals' can no longer pawn off 'liberalism' as the rebel point of view; it stands for the status quo, only more of it. Any opposition to the prevailing opinions will have to come from the Conservatives; only encouragement can come from the 'liberal' camp."

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